



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.		
09/843,629	04/26/2001	Mototsugu Abe	09792909-5003	9203		
26263	7590	12/23/2009	EXAMINER			
SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP P.O. BOX 061080 WACKER DRIVE STATION, WILLIS TOWER CHICAGO, IL 60606-1080				ATALA, JAMIE JO		
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER				
2621						
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE				
12/23/2009		PAPER				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/843,629	ABE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JAMIE JO ATALA	2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9/23/09.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-12, 14-38 and 40-55 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-12, 14-38 and 40-55 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed August 26, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. On page 14-15 applicant argues that the prior art of record fails to disclose, suggest, or teach "a commercial message extracting means for extracting a commercial message in the commercial message section from the input signal in accordance with a detection by the commercial message section detection means" as recited in Claim 1. It is noted Wordermann teaches the extracting of the commercial message in Column 1 Lines 32-39 and further discussed in Column 1 Lines 23-67. Furthermore, applicant agrees with this reading as recited in Claim 1 wherein the applicant describes the advertising blocks are "masked out" as seen in page 15. It is noted the examiner is reading the claim limitation "extracting" as removing/pulled out of stream which is clearly taught by Wordermann. Thereby Wordermann is only being relied upon to teach the extracting of the commercial message and indexing of the commercial message is additionally taught by Hooks et al in view of Dimitrova et al. Furthermore, applicant points out that Wordermann reference is incorrect regarding Claim 1 in reciting Column 10. It is noted that the examiner acknowledges a typographical mistake when applying the reference wherein it should have stated Column 1. Although, it may appear incorrect in the non-final office action it is noted that the entire reference is being applied and thereby the reference still teaches the extracting of commercial message as taught by Wordermann. The examiner does not feel it necessary to apply a new non-final rejection based on the entire reference was

being applied to teach the extraction and thereby the rejection will remain final regarding the point involving the typographical error.

2. On page 16-18 applicant further argues the prior art of record fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the following limitation "an index information extracting means for extracting information from said commercial message section to be used as a user-selectable index representing said recorded commercial message and display means for displaying said index as recited in Claim 1. It is noted that Hooks teaches the indexing of commercial message as described in Column 10 Lines 63+ through Column 11 Lines 1-18. Additionally, Dimitrova further teaches the indexing of commercials as described in Column 18 Lines 9-21 wherein a database is used to apply the indexing of commercials based on key words or other processes as described in Column 18 Lines 9-67. Furthermore, user selectable index representing a commercial is additionally taught by Dimitrova (i.e. searchable key words). Additionally, applicant on pages 18-20 argue that Dimitrova merely slips or deletes commercial; However, it is noted in Column 18 Lines 9-67 commercials are stored and indexed to allow for the user to browse through commercials and thereby provides teachings regarding "the index information extracted from said commercial section and associated with said commercial message is a starting image, a cut image, a starting sound or ending sound" as recited in Column 8 Lines 21+ and Column 17 Lines 31+. Although, all if applicants points are understood the examiner can not agree and therefore the rejection is maintained.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-12; 14-38; 40-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Nafeh (US 5,343,251) in view of Wordemann (7,088,909) in view of Hooks et al (US 6,169,542) in further view of Dimitrova et al (US 6,100,941).

[claim 1]

In regard to Claim 1, Nafeh discloses a signal processing device and method comprising:

- a message section detecting means for detecting a commercial message section from an input signal including at least the commercial message section and the remaining signal section on a time division basis (Figure 1a shows the detecting of the commercial message section as further described in Column 2 Lines 40+. The system detects the commercial message from the inputted signal);
- a display for displaying said index (Figure 4 shows the display for displaying data being processed within the system);
- a recording means for recording (Figure 1a shows the recording means in VCR 20); however fails to disclose
 - a commercial message extracting means for extracting the signal in the commercial message section from the input signal in

accordance with a result of the detection by the commercial message section detecting means (Column 2 Lines 63+ through Column 3 Lines 1-16 describes the extracting of the signal as a result of detecting the commercial message section);

- the recording means for recording each signal extracted from the input signal by the commercial message extracting means
- an index information extracting means for extracting information from said commercial message section to be used as a user-selectable index representing said recorded commercial message, the information extracted from said commercial message section and associated with said commercial message being one of a starting image, a cut point image, a starting sound or an ending

Wordemann et al teaches a system wherein a commercial is detected and extracted prior to recording and further comprising:

- a commercial message extracting means for extracting a commercial message in the commercial message section from the input signal in accordance with a result of the detection by the commercial message section detecting means (Column 1 Lines 32-39 describes determining and collecting the advertise block from the stored video data)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the signal processing device, as disclosed by Nafeh, and incorporate an extracting of the commercial message from the detection means, as taught by Wordemann, in order to allow for effective processing and determining of the commercial message.

Hook teaches a system for delivery of index commercials to the system further comprising:

- the recording means for recording each signal extracted from the input signal by the commercial message extracting means (Figure 7 shows the recording of the commercial based on the extraction from the input signal containing commercial messages. The recording of information pertaining to the commercial and information being processed by the system is further described in Column 12 Lines 10-34. The system records the extracted commercial message into the subscriber's data base provided on the head end of the system as further seen in Figure 6 to allow for the user to properly choose a commercial that is desired for viewing).
- an index information extracting means for extracting information from said commercial message section to be used as a user-selectable index representing said recorded commercial message and display means for displaying said index (Figure 8 shows the

index of commercial messages to be selected for displaying to the user as further described in Column 10 Lines 63+ through Column 11 Lines 1-18).

It is taught by Hook to provide a system for interactive advertisement to allow for user selection of advertisement pertaining to current content (Column 2 Lines 35-63).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the classifying of input signals, as disclosed by Nafeh, and further disclose the ability to record and index commercial messages, as taught by Hook, in order to provide a fully operable system to allow for the user to select desired commercials to be viewed.

Dimitrova teaches a system for detecting commercial messages further comprising:

- the information extracted from said commercial message section and associated with said commercial message being one of a starting image, a cut point image, a starting sound or an ending (Figures 1 and 5 show the system and the determining the data for commercial detection based on average cut frame distance, cut frame, cut rate, changes in average cut frame distance, absence of logo, brand name detection, black or static frames in order to properly identify commercials Column 8 Lines 21+ and Column 17 Lines 31+. Furthermore, the indexing of the commercials are taught in Column 18 Lines 9-67).

It is taught by Dimitrova et al to provide a system for detecting and indexing proper commercial content to allow for proper identification of the signals. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the classifying of input signals, as disclosed by Nafeh in view Wordmann in view of Hook, and further disclose the ability to extract the commercial message based on images being processed by the extracting device, as taught by Dimitrova et al, in order to provide a fully operable system to allow for the user to select desired commercials to be viewed

[claim 2]

In regard to Claim 2, Nafeh discloses a signal processing device and method further comprising a characteristic value extracting means for extracting the characteristic values characterizing the commercial message from the detected commercial message section, wherein said recording means records the characteristic values of the commercial message in association with the commercial message (Column 3 Lines 20-57 describes the processing the characteristic values that are extracted from the commercial message).

[claim 3]

In regard to Claim 3, Nafeh discloses a signal processing device and method wherein said commercial message section detecting means detects said commercial message section from said input commercial message on the basis of a characteristic pattern of the commercial message appearing in said input commercial message at

predetermined time intervals and a characteristic value reflecting the probability of the commercial message appearing in the input commercial message (Column 5 Lines 30-67 through Column 6 Lines 1-12 describes the detecting of the commercial message section on the basis of characteristic patterns and wherein the probability of the characteristic value is calculated).

[claim 4]

In regard to Claim 4, Nafeh discloses a signal processing device and method wherein said commercial message section detecting means detects said commercial message section on the basis of predetermined guide information which is prepared corresponding to said input commercial message (Column 3 Lines 20-57 describes the basis of the prepared corresponding to the input signal).

[claim 5]

In regard to Claim 5, Nafeh discloses a signal processing device and method wherein said characteristic value characterizing said commercial message is amplitude of the commercial message in the commercial message section (Column 3 Lines 34-36 and Column 3 Lines 60+ describes the signal processing device wherein the changes in amplitude are measured between signals/segments).

[claim 6]

In regard to Claim 6, Nafeh discloses a signal processing device and method wherein said characteristic value characterizing said commercial message is a spectrum of the commercial message in the commercial message section (Column 3 Lines 37-48

describes the spectrum of the signal wherein the change between signals/segments are determined).

[claim 7]

In regard to Claim 7, Nafeh discloses a signal processing device and method wherein said characteristic value characterizing said commercial message is a linear prediction coefficient of the signal in the commercial message section (Column 5 Lines 52-67 describes the linear prediction coefficient of the signal in the first section).

[claim 8]

In regard to Claim 8, Nafeh discloses a signal processing device and method wherein said characteristic value characterizing said commercial message is a histogram of a predetermined component of the signal in the commercial message section (Column 3 Lines 20-56 describes the components that comprise a histogram wherein the predetermined component of the signal).

[claim 9]

In regard to Claim 9, Nafeh discloses a signal processing device and method wherein said characteristic value characterizing said commercial message is mean value and difference of the predetermined component of the signal in the commercial message section (Column 6 Lines 6-50 describes the calculation of the average value of the predetermined components).

[claim 10]

In regard to Claim 10 the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 9.

[claim 11]

In regard to Claim 11, Nafeh discloses a signal processing device and method wherein said characteristic value characterizing said commercial message is the number of changes of the state of the signal in the commercial message section (Column 6 Lines 40+ describes the characteristic value wherein the commercial message is the number of changes that take place between segments).

[claim 12]

In regard to Claim 12, Nafeh discloses a signal processing device and method wherein said characteristic value characterizing said commercial message is the time of the change of the state of the signal in the commercial message section (Column 5 Lines 12-27 describes the signal processing wherein the time change determines the state of the signal).

[claim 14]

In regard to Claim 14, Nafeh discloses a signal processing device and method wherein said index information is an edited signal obtained by editing said commercial message (Column 1 Lines 15-55 describes the editing of the commercial message).

[claim 15]

In regard to Claim 15, Nafeh discloses a signal processing device and method wherein said edited signal obtained by editing said commercial message comprises a set of signals at the time when the state of said commercial message changes which represent the start or ending part of the signals (Column 5 Lines 12-27 describes the timing of the segments/signals which comprises the various signals).

[claim 16]

In regard to Claim 16 the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 15.

[claim 17]

In regard to Claim 17, Nafeh discloses a signal processing device and method wherein said index information extracting means extract the signal at a time when the state of said commercial message changes (Figure 1a shows the extracting of the signal at the time when the state of the commercial message changes as further described in Column 3 Lines 20-56).

[claim 18]

In regard to Claim 18, Nafeh discloses the signal processing device and method further comprising a comparing means for comparing characteristic values respectively characterizing two commercial messages recorded by said recording means and discarding one of the recorded two commercial messages when the characteristic values of the two commercial messages are determined to be substantially the same (Column 5 Lines 30+ describes the comparing of characteristic values that characterize different commercial messages).

[claim 19]

In regard to Claim 19, Nafeh discloses the signal processing device and method wherein said comparing means is detects agreement/disagreement of the commercial messages in a part of the section or in the entire section by comparing said characteristic values (Column 6 Lines 25+ describes the comparing of the commercial messages in a part of the section or entire section that compares to the characteristic values).

[claim 20]

In regard to Claim 20, Nafeh discloses the signal processing device and method wherein said comparing means detects the degree of similarity of the commercial messages in a part of the section or in the entire section by comparing said characteristic values (Column 6 Lines 6+ describes the detection of similarity between the first segment and the entire segment).

[claim 21]

In regard to Claim 21, Nafeh discloses the signal processing device and method wherein said comparing means performs the comparing operation on a basis of the distance as determined by using a predetermined distance scale between vectors formed at least one of the amplitude of the signal in the commercial message section, the spectrum of the signal in the commercial message section, the linear prediction coefficient of the signal in the commercial message section, the histogram of a predetermined component of the signal in the commercial message section, the mean value of the predetermined component of the signal in the commercial message section, the difference in the predetermined signal component of the signal in the commercial message section, the number of changes in the state of the signal in the commercial message section and the time of a change in the state of the signal in the commercial message section (Column 3 Lines 20-56 describes the components that comprise a histogram wherein the predetermined component of the signal).

[claim 22]

In regard to Claims 22, Nafeh discloses a signal processing device and method further comprising:

- an index information specifying means for specifying desired index information from said displayed plurality of pieces of index information (Figure 1a shows the extraction of index information which represents the commercial message as further described in Column 2 Lines 55-63 and Column 3 Lines 20-57); and
- a retrieving means for retrieving the commercial message corresponding to said specified index information (Column 7 Lines 20-40 describes the retrieving means used for retrieving specified index information).

[claim 23]

In regard to Claim 23, Nafeh discloses the signal processing device and method further comprising:

- a retrieving means for retrieving the commercial message substantially agreeing with said commercial message from said recording means, using said commercial message in a part of the section or in the entire section or a characteristic value characterizing the commercial message as retrieving condition (Column 7 Lines 20-40 describes the retrieving means used for retrieving specified index information).

[claim 24]

In regard to Claim 24 the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 23.

[claim 25]

In regard to Claim 25, Nafeh discloses the signal processing device and method further comprising: a measuring means for measuring the number of times and/or the hours of appearances of a same commercial message (Figure 7 Lines 45-57 describes the measuring of the number of occurrences that a segment occurs within the signal).

[claim 26]

In regard to Claim 26 the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 25.

[claim 27]

In regard to Claim 27, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 1.

[claim 28]

In regard to Claim 28, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 2.

[claim 29]

In regard to Claim 29, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 3.

[claim 30]

In regard to Claim 30, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 4.

[claim 31]

In regard to Claim 31, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 5.

[claim 32]

In regard to Claim 32, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 6.

[claim 33]

In regard to Claim 33, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 7.

[claim 34]

In regard to Claim 34, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 8.

[claim 35]

In regard to Claim 35, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 9.

[claim 36]

In regard to Claim 36, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 10.

[claim 37]

In regard to Claim 37, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 11.

[claim 38]

In regard to Claim 37, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 12.

[claim 40]

In regard to Claim 40, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 14.

[claim 41]

In regard to Claim 41, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 15.

[claim 42]

In regard to Claim 42, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 17.

[claim 43]

In regard to Claim 43, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 18.

[claim 44]

In regard to Claim 44, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 19.

[claim 45]

In regard to Claim 45, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 20.

[claim 46]

In regard to Claim 46, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 21.

[claim 47]

In regard to Claim 47, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 22.

[claim 48]

In regard to Claim 48, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 23.

[claim 49]

In regard to Claim 49, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 24.

[claim 50]

In regard to Claim 50, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 44.

[claim 51]

In regard to Claim 51, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 25.

[claim 52]

In regard to Claim 52, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 26.

[claim 53]

In regard to Claim 53, Nafeh discloses a signal processing device and method wherein said input signal comprises a video signal and/or an audio signal and said commercial message covers a commercial message section (Column 7 Lines 30-57 describes that the commercial message covers a commercial message section).

[claim 54]

In regard to Claim 54, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 53.

[claim 55]

In regard to Claim 55, the claim limitations have been discussed in Claim 1.

Conclusion

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMIE JO ATALA whose telephone number is (571)272-7384. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2621

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/JAMIE JO ATALA/
Examiner, Art Unit 2621